

The Mount Airy News

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Today's Weather

Shattered Dreams



Wendy Byerly Wood/The Mount Airy News

Savannah Collins checks out the cockpit of "Mongrel" before the Mayberry Air Race Sunday at the Mount Airy-Surry County Airport.



Wendy Byerly Wood/The Mount Airy News

William Wilson, left, a flight student at the Mount Airy-Surry County Airport, inspects a Navy war plane with his parents, Mark and Diane Wilson, before the Mayberry Air Race Sunday at the Mount Airy-Surry County Airport.

Planes take flight in first Mayberry Air Race

By WENDY BYERLY WOOD
Staff Writer

MOUNT AIRY — The crowds rolled in little by little as the pilots and copilots for the first Mayberry Air Race held a meeting to receive their instructions for take-off, what to do at the turn-around point and then their flight back.

A number of families brought their kids to get close-up looks at the planes of all sizes and styles before the race began. Jeff Hunter and his ultralight "Red Baron" plane entertained the crowd for a while and then Dr. Tom Jackson did

some air aerobatics for the onlookers after the last of the nine planes racing took to the air Sunday afternoon at the Mount Airy-Surry County Airport in the Holly Springs community.

Lt. Col. Norman Noah Jr., cadet squadron for the Mount Airy unit of Civil Air Patrol, explained that his unit was assisting in making sure people didn't climb on the planes so they wouldn't get hurt and were serving food and refreshments as a fund-raiser.

"The Civil Air Patrol is a great organization for any kids or adults who want

to get involved in Homeland Security," Noah said.

Nine planes registered for the first air race, according to Freddy Gray, president of the sponsoring Surry Pilots Association. "They will be timed when they take off and as they reach the turn-around and the time stops when they cross the finish line here."

The nine planes took off at five minute intervals beginning at about 1:45 p.m., and flew to the Rutherfordton County Airport, FQD. As they passed the turn-around, they had to fly low

enough to be identified, and then do a 180-degree turn and head back to Mount Airy. Greg Turner of Leading Edge Aviation was the official at the Rutherfordton County Airport, while Thomas Taylor and Richard "Chico" George served as officials and timekeepers in Mount Airy.

"This is a pilot project to see how it goes, and, if it breaks even, and it looks like it will, then we will do it again next year," Gray said. "It's got the possibility to be a big event. The weather is what

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School community
enjoys Spring Fling.
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COMING UP:
Galax celebrating
100th birthday.
Tuesday

Chuckle

You've never heard of a woman making a fool out of a man without cooperation.

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Wendy Byerly Wood/The Mount Airy News

Savannah Collins checks out the cockpit of "Mongrel" before the Mayberry Air Race Sunday at the Mount Airy-Surry County Airport.



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